

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
February 14, 2014

The City will again sponsor the Annual Spring Cleaning on March 29, 2014. You've got plenty of time to get a team together or come solo, everyone will be welcome. Help us make America's Sweetest Town, America's Cleanest Town! Call Public Works Director Sean Scheffler for more information.

Dates to Remember:

February 17, 2014	City Commission Meeting
February 20, 2014	Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting – 12 noon
March 29, 2014	Annual Spring Cleaning – 9:00 a.m. to noon

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- Code Enforcement opened four (4) cases: three (3) for construction without a permit and one (1) for illegal parking. Two (2) cases were found to be in compliance and closed.
- There will be a new restaurant opening soon at 444 East Sugarland Hwy., formerly known as Florida Cafeteria. The new name is Taqueria Jalapeno's and will be a Mexican buffet style restaurant.

Golf Course Operations Director Ford reports:

- The Golf Course was treated for ants as the recent rains have increased activity.
- Golf cart repairs are continuing with battery racks and batteries being replaced.
- An area around number 9 has been repaired. The old thin and bare area between a bunker and cart path has been removed, good material was put down and new sod installed.
- The Seminole Tribe held an event for their Brighton Field Days on Wednesday with 22 players.
- Congratulations to the 2014 Ladies Club Champions, Mary Rose Swetz [low gross] and Janet Mitzner [low net]. Congratulations also go out to the 2014 Sr. Club Champions, Salaw Hummingbird [low gross] and Larry Mason [low net].

Library Director Barrett reports:

- The Clewiston Library volunteer appreciation luncheon in honor of our wonderful volunteers is coming up on February 18, 2014.
- The Clewiston Library Movie and a Hot Dog night is coming up on February 17, 2014 featuring the movie The Butler.
- Please join us as we close out African American History month with the movie, The Help, on February 24, 2014.

- Look for the annual One-Book-One Community Reads announcements soon! The focus this year is on disabilities.
- The Hendry County Library Cooperative plans to present its proposal for improved library services and alternate funding, to the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners in a workshop on Tuesday, February 25, at 3:30 p.m. The public is invited.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Officers responded to a welfare check Sunday night at the Lopez Apartments. A deceased 38 year old I/M was found alone. We have no initial reason to suspect foul play. However, until toxicology and other evidence factors have been analyzed, we will maintain the investigation.
- A young lady at the Tiki Bar created a dust-up over the weekend after having a bit too much to drink. As officers arrived, she dove into the Del Rio canal and swam away in an effort to elude the police. Once she tired herself out, officers pulled her from the water and took her to jail.
- There was a fight at a City playground when a member of a rival gang saw a member of the opposing gang and decided to punch him and run. An officer on scene saw this happen and arrested the offender. Now he belongs to a new gang....the Chain Gang. We are making an arrest in every single incident of gang violence if at all possible.
- There were five reported bicycle thefts over the weekend. Two were recovered and one arrest was made. Please keep your garage door closed when you are not actually in it.
- We have been noticing an increased incidence of public alcohol consumption on the East end of town. Patrol has responded with high arrest numbers for the offense.
- A reminder, we are ramping up enforcement efforts against the use of Golf Carts, 4-wheelers, and motorized dirt bikes within the City limits. We have finished the warning phase and are now issuing tickets and impounding the vehicles. Okeechobee Boulevard and the areas surrounding the boat basin are off limits as well. Those areas may also include a trespass arrest. The illegal use of these vehicles has become by far the number one complaint received on the North side of town.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 1221** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 623** Complaints Investigated
 - 48** Traffic Citations Issued
 - 52** Arrests Made
 - 74** Merchant Escorts Provided
 - 21** Red Light Camera Offenses
 - 19** Alarms Responded To
 - 6** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Public Works Director Scheffler reports:

- Mosquito Control Activity: Trap counts for the night of February 5: Operations Building trap: 104, Elks property trap: 50, Okeechobee Blvd. trap: 90, Berner Road trap: 97. Three complaints were recorded and the contractor trapped again on Tuesday night, February 11.

- Street Maintenance: (1) Two truck loads of “red mulch” have been placed around the plant material on US27 and two more loads ordered. (2) Sod was installed around inlets, along the edge of payment and sidewalks on the last two ditch covering projects done on Pasadena. (3) Mowers ran this week mowing large park areas identified for use during the baseball/softball season for practice fields. (4) Staff repaired and leveled a section of East Alverde and San Diego.
- Facility Maintenance: Two toilets at the boat basin bathrooms had to be replaced due to damage after the FLW Tournament.
- Drainage Project on Haiti: Wet ground prevented progress last week on this project but work resumed this week. Driveway aprons are scheduled to be paved on Monday.
- Golf Course Sign: The work on the tournament sign board stopped because of other pressing issues. It will be ready for paint this week and quite possibly installed.
- Please mark you calendar, Spring Cleaning is scheduled for **March 29th**. We will again meet under the Chickee at the Youth Center.

Recreation Director Ramer reports:

- Our kids will begin practicing baseball and softball all around town in the next couple of days. Please make a special note to watch out for them as they go to and from practices. The 1st game of the 2014 season is tentatively scheduled for March 17th.
- Work nears completion on the batting cages on field #8 at Sugarland Sports Complex. Sod has been delivered and set and still have two pallets to go. Braces and supports for the hitting mats should arrive shortly and the project will be complete.
- CHS Softball will play their next home game on Feb. 18th on Field #8 at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. GO TIGERS!
- Work on Stalls Field “bullpen mounds” has begun. Requests for locates and staging of materials are complete.
- Coaches will begin to pick-up their equipment for Clewiston Recreation Baseball and Softball season this week. Please contact the Youth Center 983-1492 if you need to make special arrangements to receive your equipment. The soccer fields at Sugarland Sports Complex will be aerated next week and work will be performed to repair the goalie boxes.
- Trimming, edging, rolling, aerating and cleaning has begun on the other game fields and concession stands at Sugarland Park in preparation for the upcoming season.
- Please contact the Youth Center at (863) 983-1492, “LIKE” us on Facebook or visit www.clewistonrecreation.com for all your recreational needs and information.

Utilities Department Director Williams reports:

- The Electric crew repaired several street lights this week.
- The contractor will be here this week to repair the turn signal at the intersection of WC Owen and US 27.
- Preparation for the Hendry County Fair, opening this weekend, began this week. The Electric crew hung the fair banner and checked the lights at the fairgrounds and the Water/Sewer crew checked the lift station and jetted the sewer line.
- Lead Lineman Mike Cox and Lineman Jason Crawford are attending school this week to become certified for traffic light maintenance.

- The Water/Sewer crew is continuing cleaning and painting lift stations, in addition to repairing several water breaks this week.
- The Utility office personnel have been busy verifying information for the software conversion scheduled to take place the first week of March. Training on the new software will begin next week.